

ABSTRACT

An apparatus for automatically adjusting the recording quality of incoming video data is provided. The apparatus includes a content analyzer for evaluating an incoming stream of video programs; a recording manager for determining the target recording bit rate according to the type of video programs received by the content analyzing device, a bit rate controller for adjusting the recording bit rate of the incoming video stream, an encoder/transcoder device for transforming the incoming video programs into a video stream at a specified bit rate designated by the bit rate controller, and a disk storage medium for storing video programs provided by the encoder/transcoder device. The method includes the steps of: analyzing the content of incoming video information representative of dynamic video signal streams; determining an appropriate bit rate for recording in the storage medium according to predetermined criteria; and, recording the incoming video information representative of dynamic video signal streams according to the determined bit rate.